# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HOME AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:338
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2002
REFUGEE POPULATION IN THE COUNTRY
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether India has the largest refugee population in the world but lacks a law to deal with the resultant problems;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether there is scarcely any mechanism to deal with the scores of problem that the huge refugee population faces regularly;

(d) the extent of refugee influx from Sri Lanka, Tibet, Afghanistan, Burma, Somalia, Sudan, Iran and Bangladesh;

(e) the amount Government annually incur on them; and

(f) the steps the Government propose to take to tackle the refugee problem in the country?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.338 FOR 16.4.2002

(a),(b)&(c): India does not have the largest refugee population and although there is no refugee specific law, matters pertaining to such foreigners have been handled under the provisions of Foreigners Act, 1946 and Rules made thereunder, without experiencing any problem.

(d): The figures of foreigners who have sought refuge in India is given below. Out of these only Srilankans and Tibetans are referred to as refugees.

| | |
|---|---|
| Srilankans | 91723 |
| Tibetan | 78321 |
| Afghan | 11833 |
| Bangladeshi | 50974 |
| Myanmarese | 428 |
| Somalian | 42 |
| Sudanese | 4 |
| Iranian | 347 |
| Total | 2,33,672 (Figures as on 31.12.2000) |

(e): The Government of India has spent Rs.25 crores during the year 2001-2002.

(f): Dealing with matters pertaining to such foreigners is an on-going process. They are free to leave for any other country of their choice at any time but as and when conditions improve in their home countries, they are encouraged to return.